

# Mohave County Miner.

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## Chihuahua Mineral Outlook.

John Davidson, of Chihuahua, who has been at the Plaza hotel for the past few days left this morning for a business trip over the Sierra Madre line, says the Industrial Record. For three years previous to the first of last August Mr. Davidson was superintendent of the Santa Domingo Mining Company, whose property is sixteen miles from Chihuahua to the mine. This property is in the Santa Eulalia district, the mines of which were taken to build the cathedral at Chihuahua. There was a tax of eight cents imposed upon every six dollars worth of mineral taken from the mines and in this way \$91,000 was raised with which to build the cathedral. This gives an idea of how wealthy the properties are and how long they have been paying the operators, as the cathedral was built the last century. And at the time of the building of the cathedral the ore was taken out of the mines by Mexicans carrying it upon their backs supported by straps around their foreheads. They were also compelled to make the ascent out of the mine upon a ladder made by cutting steps in an upright log.

Mr. Davidson says there is no doubt but what the Stilwell road will be built and it will tap the richest mineral belt of the state of Chihuahua, and he adds, "the state is no slouch as a mining country either." The road will tap a section of the country containing iron ore 50 to 70 per cent pure that is now too far from the railroad to be handled at a profit. There is already a boom on in the city of Chihuahua but it is not to be compared with the boom that will follow the construction of the Stilwell road through that city. With the advent of this road and a few more American mining companies which are sure to follow it, Mr. Davidson says that Mexico will give the United States a pretty lively chase for the leading mining country, for there are inexhaustible mineral deposits in the republic that may be worked to a great profit when the road is built. The road will also traverse some of the richest farming land in the world which can be purchased for an insignificant amount, some of the best for 25¢ in Mexican money. "Don't you know," asked Mr. Davidson, "that there will be hundreds of citizens of the United States rush to that rich country as soon as they see that the road is sure to be built and the mining and farming country both will be brought to the front?"

In company with Henry Weitzig, of Chihuahua, Mr. Davidson will soon enter the heart of the republic on a business venture and as these gentlemen both have unlimited energy and a good knowledge of the country the public may expect to hear them making rapid strides to succeed in the country that will be opened up by the coming therein of the Stilwell road. Mr. Weitzig is a machinist of the Kansas City Smelting and Refining company and has been with that company for nine years. He has been doing some work at their El Paso smelter for the past two months and is at the Plaza now taking a few days rest.

## General Mining News

The Chihuahua Enterprise says that the Angelica copper and silver mine, located about fifteen miles from the San Gabriel station of the International railway, in the state of Durango, has been purchased by a company organized in Carnegie, Pa., the same which lately bought the Volant de Dois gold mine, distant about six miles. A. C. McCaughan will be superintendent of both properties.

A report from Ensenada, by way of San Diego, states there is great excitement in that place over copper mining. It is stated that Charles Benton and associates have recorded at Ensenada 4,000 location notices on claims extending from that city to Sante Domingo. The expense of the filing was in the neighborhood of \$75,000. The report current at Ensenada was that Montana capitalists are going to look up the enterprise.

There was a sensation at the Elkton mine, Cripple Creek, Col., last week. For some time it had been suspected that some of the miners had been guilty of stealing high grade ore and detectives were put to work in the mine with the suspects. When the shift came off on the 19th inst. each man was searched and seven were found to have ore of very high grade hidden in their pockets. All were arrested by a posse of officers. Superintendent Camp estimates that fully 10,000 lbs worth of ore was stolen last month. The ore taken from those searched is estimated to be worth at least 5000.

Supt. Parry, of the Milwaukee company, has sent several teams from Casa Grande, loaded with supplies, sacks, etc., for his lead properties, situated about thirty miles south of Casa Grande. He has placed George Westfall in charge of the work of extracting and sacking ore, and will soon have a carload ready for shipment. He is also rushing work on the Sunset copper group, in the same vicinity, and opening up some large veins of copper-bearing ore. There is every indication now that this fine property will prove to be a very valuable one.—Florence Blade.

Mrs. A. Kinney has received samples of ore from a recent important strike made on the St. Carl claim, one of the west end claims of the Bryan group, on the Gila river opposite Kelvin. The ore is high grade copper glance. The vein has been stripped a length of 100 feet and sixty sacks of the ore shipped, and more will follow as fast as teams can be got to haul it. There is a fine showing of ore in the old Bryan workings, and this new strike greatly enhances the value of property.—Silver Belt.

Hon. A. G. Hubbard, the well known mining man of Redlands, Cal., was in Yuma last Friday. Mr. Hubbard had just returned from the Bonanza district, where he is developing a very valuable property, of which he is the owner. This property is near the famous Bonanza mine, which he and his partner, the late George Bowers, sold to English capitalists some three years ago for 1,200,000. A few months since he purchased the same property for 75,000 and will make another fortune out of it. The old figurative saying that lightning never strikes twice in the same place, is not applicable to Mr. Hubbard.—Yuma Sentinel.

The South African mining companies have been bitterly disappointed by the delay in ending the military campaign. They sent their engineers and agents to Cape Town when Pretoria was occupied and there they have remained in idleness month after month. A dozen engineers, representing the mining interests, have been allowed to go to Johannesburg and report on the condition of the plant, but pumping operations have not been resumed, and miners and natives cannot be employed until the railways are prepared to carry coal and supplies on a large scale. The railways barely suffice for the needs of the army, and it is not believed that the mines can be operated with efficiency before the end of six months. It may be twelve months before returns are received from the immense mass of capital invested in the Transvaal.

The outlook for gold mining in Arizona is still bright, says Major S. M. Davis, mineral agent of the El Paso chamber of commerce in the El Paso Herald. There is not a shadow of doubt that Arizona in the near future will take front rank as a producer of gold. It is an indisputable fact that gold is more widely distributed and more accessible in paying quantities than in any other state or territory in the United States. Every range of mountains running through the territory is seamed with veins, carrying gold, silver and copper, and her valleys are one mass of placers, awaiting the development of water. As for free milling propositions, Arizona stands at the head of the list. The mining world has heard for years that the veins in Arizona do not go down. I know it to be a fact that in all altitudes above 3,000 feet they do go down. It has been tested in a hundred dis-

tricts that are working at the 1,000-foot level today and growing richer as they go down. Arizona's climatic conditions for mining are unexcelled in any mining country in the world—no winter, no avalanches. You can eat your breakfast at your mine and your supper in your orange grove. Arizona is the ideal mining country of the world, and the mining fraternity will only have to investigate it and be convinced of the fact.

The outlook for quartz mining in the Ketchikan district of southeastern Alaska, one of the young camps, is very flattering. In the district are about 1,500 people, mostly miners and prospectors. The town has but 400 of this number, the others being in the various adjacent camps or prospecting in the hills. Six new postoffices have been established this summer. A postoffice inspector, who recently visited each camp, will report to the department that in every town there are all signs of permanency. His visit was to prevent the establishment of postoffices in camps that were on wheels. One man who recently returned from the Ketchikan district says that he has walked a mile on the surface of a gold-bearing ledge. The ore bodies, as a rule, are said to be about five feet in width. Outside of a pay streak of a very few inches, which will sometimes average as much as 100 to 200 to the ton, the whole ledge will usually assay from 5 to 10. The ore is free milling and smelting. There is now at Helm bay a five-stamp mill, which is doing well, but most of the mine-owners are going ahead, blocking out several years' ore, before going to the expense of erecting mills. The values of the camp are mostly gold in the base ores as well as in the free milling, but in Kniblock and Kason bay there are copper showings which are attracting much attention. The only alluvial deposits are little spots at the foot of the ledges and are too small to work as placers. Only in one case are the properties more than two miles from salt water. In that the distance is five miles. Many of them are right in the water and easy of access. Most of them are tunnel propositions, making them easier and cheaper to work. One, however, has three shafts down thirty-five feet each, 200 feet apart, and has ore blocked out to the amount of more than 100,000.

The owners are said to have refused a cash offer of that amount. To prospect the country the only difficulty is that the ground is mostly covered with moss, which hides the croppings from view. The mountains are not rugged as the Olympics and the Cascades. The tops of the ranges are open parks, with a carpet of grass, and a paradise for deer, which are found there in great numbers. United States Postoffice Inspector John P. Clum is reported as saying that the extent of the Cape Nome gold belt far exceeds that of the Klondike. Several of the new creeks in which gold is known to be in paying quantities are from fifty to 120 miles from Nome, and in various directions. Mr. Clum says he belongs to the class which think Cape Nome will be a better camp next year than it is now largely for the reason that there has been too many people there. Certain it is that conditions at Nome are improving, even now. The output is increasing gently, and in spite of the fact that the beaches have been declared to be worked out, hundreds of men are digging gold from them.—Western Mining World.

## A Curious Indian.

Mr. J. C. Durham of Copper Mountain, has in his employ an Indian from southern Mexico, who claims to be an Aztec and thoroughly educated in the Aztec language, and Mr. Durham is convinced that he tells the truth. Near Durham station there is a large amount of "picture writing" on the rocks which is supposed to have been written by the Aztecs. The second day after the Indian's arrival at the station, Mr. Durham took him to the rocks and pointed to the "picture writing." He seemed surprised and delighted, and at once commenced to read the characters. After reading them he told Mr. Durham that they were dated 1237 and stated that about one-quarter of a mile in a certain direction he would find the ruins of an Aztec town. Mr. Durham knew the ruins were there and asked the Indian if he could go to them by the directions given in the writing, and he replied in the affirmative, then went direct to the ruins. He also told Mr. Durham that the piles of rock near the ruins, which the latter had supposed were graves, denoted where the

Aztecs, when they left the country, had buried their idols. He stated that according to the writing on the rocks he would find these idols by sinking to a vertical depth of thirteen feet and drifting in a certain direction ten feet. He offered to prove the truth of his interpretation of the writing by digging up some of the idols. He also stated that according to the writings on the rock, that in a certain direction and a certain distance would be found a very large, square house, and that in a certain corner of a certain room in this building, ollas containing tablets of stone giving Aztec history had been buried, and that the tablets also gave a history of and directions to gold mines worked by the Aztecs. The direction and distance he read from the rocks and the description of the building, indicated that the old Casa Grande ruin was the building referred to. He writes these Aztec characters on paper with a pencil as readily as we write English words, and writes and reads them from left to right, the same as we do in English. But the most peculiar thing about this Indian curiosity is the fact that when you point out to him any animal or object and ask him the English name of it, he will write it down in what he declares is Aztec and then write under it the English name correctly in English letters, but can not pronounce it. He explains this by saying that his father, who was an Aztec scholar, also knew the English alphabet and taught it to him; that there are the same number of characters in the Aztec alphabet as there are in the English alphabet and that the arrangement of them is such that by taking the English letters by number they will correspond with the number of the Aztec character in the Aztec alphabet. For instance, you point to a cat and ask him to give the name in English. He will write it in Aztec first. The numbers of Aztec characters will correspond with the third, first and twentieth letters of our alphabet, consequently he will write C-A-T, but could not write it without first writing it in his own language. We shall learn something more of this strange character. He may be able, by reading the "picture writing" which is heard all over this country, to give us some interesting history of this ancient land.—Arizona Blade.

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